

29 November 1968

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: CS SENIOR SEMINAR -- Interview with [REDACTED]

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1. I opened the interview with a prepared, succinct exposition of the origin and nature of the CS Senior Seminar proposal, a brief summary of the modification in concept and substance prompted by the Division and Staff responses to the initial draft proposal (which, I noted, was not prepared by OTR), and a request for further comments, and, specifically, identification of "vital, current CS problems" for discussion at the Seminar.

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2. [REDACTED] recommended strongly that the Seminar be confined to those things directly related to our profession, which is unique and different. Accordingly, it entails problems which are peculiar to the CS alone. In short, he suggested the clearest delineation of aims.

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3. One possible Seminar topic mentioned was essentially an organizational/managerial problem: the disparity between stated, programmed priorities and actual pressures from above. For example, some reporting requirements may fall more appropriately into the sphere of the State Department, but because we can produce on them, pressure to work on essentially secondary targets builds up, is felt by DDP and, naturally, is transmitted downward.

[REDACTED]

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5. [] suggested that one approach to defining topics for the CS Senior Seminar would be to appoint a committee to examine for, say, two months those critical matters which might be most usefully discussed. Preliminary studies pertinent to each topic could also be assigned so that Seminar discussions could proceed from carefully researched papers. It might be a good idea to hold short seminars devoted to single topics.

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6. [] saw the Seminar as a good mechanism for tapping the long experience of the generation of senior CS officers who are reaching eligibility for (early) retirement. He noted that much knowledge and many lessons learned will go out the door--irrevocably lost--with these officers.

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7. [] also recommended that the seminars be held at

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Coordinator,
CS SENIOR SEMINAR